

Hamas and other groups to target innocent civilians in Israel. Such a report cannot short-change such an effort because doing so allows those seeking to score political points—rather than seeking peace, stability, and accountability—to hijack this process.

Again, the breadth and gravity of these charges demand that these “facts” be established in a comprehensive and fair way. Yet, even our own State Department—which has been actively engaged in pursuing peace in the region and urging both sides to move that process forward—has raised concerns about both the mandate for the report as well as the report itself, noting “serious concerns about the report’s unbalanced focus on Israel, its sweeping factual and legal conclusions, and many of its recommendations.” I am not saying that there should not be a serious and comprehensive finding of fact that can serve as a starting point on the road to truth and justice about what occurred on both sides. But this is not it.

The lack of a widely credible report on potential human rights abuses during the Gaza conflict is a missed opportunity to advance peace or stability in the region. It does not advance accountability. In a region with plenty of easy opportunity for division and unleashing of tensions, I believe that a more widely credible report could have been so much more useful in promoting transparency about what occurred, justice for those affected, and the prospect of a future peace for all. And it would have made this resolution on the floor this week unnecessary.

#### HONORING PHILLIP SHORT

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Phillip Short for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Short passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, California. Mr. Short was seventy-three years old.

Phillip Short was born and raised in Hughson, California and graduated from Hughson High School. He attended the University of California, Berkeley where he played football and majored in engineering. After college, he returned to Hughson and began growing walnuts and almonds along the Tuolumne River for over fifty years.

Mr. Short began his political activity within his community in 1967, when he joined the Hughson Elementary School Board. He served on the board for ten years. In August, 1977 Mr. Short was appointed to the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors. He was elected to serve on the TID board for eight consecutive four-year terms; serving over thirty-

two years. During his tenure he dealt with droughts, floods, environmental rules and the expansion of the TID electricity system between south Modesto and northern Merced County. His position with TID allowed him to oversee recreation at Don Pedro Reservoir on the Tuolumne River. Over the years, Mr. Short was also a member of the California Walnut Commission and the Federal Walnut Control Board. He served as a chairman of the export and research committees of the California Walnut Marketing Board and served as president of the Association of California Water Agencies from 1993 to 1995. In addition, Mr. Short served our nation as a United States Marine Corp reservist.

Mr. Short is survived by his wife, Kay, and five children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Phillip Short. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Short’s life and wishing the best for his family.

#### SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING GREATER SUPPORT FOR VET- ERANS DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 2, 2009*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of freedom, but specifically, I rise in support of the soldiers who have made the dream of freedom a reality for us all. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 89, which recognizes the sacrifices that are made every day by the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, I am pleased the House voted this week on the final passage of this legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge Congressman JOE BACA for introducing this legislation, which commemorates the public holiday of Veteran’s Day and its significance in carrying on the legacy of our living and fallen soldiers.

As a bipartisan bill, this legislation represents the unanimous recognition of the impact that the men and women of the United States Armed Forces make on our daily lives. The legislation notes the solemn cost of death that we pay for the defense of our freedom, and the importance of acknowledging the value of that cost. Every fallen soldier is an integral part of our collective American community, and a tremendous loss is sustained when a brother, a mother, a sister, a father, a child or a friend is removed from that community.

As we remember those who have given so much to our country, whose patriotism exceeds the requirement and defies the norm, we must also remember that it is our duty to provide for the needs of those heroes through programs, funding and medical services. Many

of the trials that our veterans face as they return home cannot be resolved, from broken bones to the memories of the tragedy of war. However, ensuring that our veterans have a home to come home to is the least we can do for these patriotic heroes. My colleagues and I were able to accomplish that through the Homes for Heroes Act, which was passed in June of this year. This bill will establish funding for low-income veterans, and will address the issues of homelessness and mental health for our veterans who need it most.

Next week, on Veteran’s Day, let us also recognize the significant contribution that military families play in the lives of our soldiers. Through their sacrifices, all of our families are afforded the opportunity of living the American Dream. I thank my colleagues for approving H. Res. 89 this week and look forward to joining with my constituents in Houston next week. As a community, we will honor the sacrifices made by our Nation’s veterans.

#### ILLEGAL ALIEN LOOPHOLE IN PELOSI HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday I joined my colleagues to comb through the Pelosi health care takeover. The takeover bill weighs in at 21 pounds and is 2,000 pages long. You would think in a bill that size, we would be able to find an adequate enforcement or citizenship verification system.

Unfortunately, we did not. All we found were weak citizenship verification measures that will give illegal aliens easy access to health care benefits paid for by hard working taxpayers—with overcrowding of medical providers delaying services for legal citizens.

In an effort to close this loophole, I am going to join Congressmen NATHAN DEAL, DEAN HELLER and SAM JOHNSON to present several amendments to the Rules Committee. Our amendments will prevent American taxpayers from being forced to finance benefits for illegal aliens by adding strong enforcement and verification provisions to the Pelosi health care takeover bill.

I encourage the Rules Committee to accept our amendments to eliminate the loopholes for fraud and abuse.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. I am grateful for the visit on Capitol Hill today by the Morristown Tea Party led by Jeff Weingarten who I visited last Sunday to encourage turnout in the New Jersey gubernatorial election Tuesday. With dedicated volunteers such as Synnove Bakke of East Brunswick, there was an historic turnout.